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sensibilis, called the sensitive fern, is said to wither on being touched by the human hand, though the touch of other substances does not produce any similar appearances."

American Fern Society

Members of the Society will hardly need to be reminded that Carl Christensen's *Index Filicum* is indispensable to students of fern classification and useful in any line of fern study. Having noted an inquiry for this work in the JOURNAL, Mr. Christensen now offers copies of it, including the Supplement, to members of the Fern Society only, for ten dollars each. This is the actual cost of the books to him. He makes only one condition—that the Society act as his agent in receiving orders and collecting payment—and asks that all orders, if possible, be sent to him at one time, in order to save trouble and expense in shipping.

Members wishing to take advantage of this generous offer should send their orders, with remittance, to the Secretary, Mr. S. H. Burnham, R. D. 2, Hudson Falls, N. Y. Deliveries will be made as soon as the books can be got from Denmark. Purchasers will be expected to pay postal charges from Hudson Falls to their places of residence.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY

Reports of officers received up to the time of going to press are printed below. The President's report is deferred until the next number in order to treat more fully the financial situation which the Society has to face owing to the greatly increased cost of publishing the JOURNAL. The Treasurer's report is also, through no fault of his, delayed.

Report of the Secretary for 1919

The past year for the Society has been a quiet one. No meetings have been held or special activities undertaken.

A few gifts have been received by the Society. Mrs. Judith H. Coffin, a short time before her death, donated vols. 13 to 18 of the *Fern Bulletin* and vols. 1 to 7 of the AMERICAN FERN JOURNAL. Dr. R. C. Benedict presented a number of copies of reprints of articles by him for distribution to the members. Mr. C. H. Knowlton gave the manuscript of Mr. Raynal Dodge's letter giving a detailed account of the discovery of *Aspidium simulatum* and *Aspidium cristatum* × *marginale*.

Mr. E. W. Graves distributed a few specimens of *Botrychium alabamense* and *B. biternatum* from Alabama, among the members.

Six members have died: Mrs. Judith Hopkins Coffin, Amedée Joseph Hans, Kenneth Bradford Laird, in Federal Service, Miss Lura L. Perrine, Mrs. Kelton E. White (née Miss Blanche A. Turner), and Miss Mary Louise Utley.

Four members have resigned. Thirteen have been dropped for non-payment of dues, already two years in arrears: among these the present addresses of Miss Margaret Slosson and Rev. H. G. Limric are unknown. Sixteen new members have been received and the membership (December 31, 1919) stands at 258, a loss of seven over last year. Mr. Leston A. Wheeler has changed from an ordinary to a life member.

The readjustment and increased cost of living, after the war, has probably had much to do with the loss in membership. If 50 new members could be added next year it would both enlarge the field of influence of the Society and place it on a more permanent basis. Let each member at least attempt to influence one of

his friends to join the Society; for we must all coöperate to increase the membership. The Secretary is very grateful to his predecessor, Mr. Weatherby, for his uniform courtesy and kindness on many occasions.

S. H. BURNHAM, *Secretary*

Report of the Curator for 1919

For the past year the work of the curator has been largely of a routine nature, consisting for the most part in mounting and cataloguing additional material. 275 sheets have been mounted from the collection of specimens from the Philippines and British North Borneo mentioned in as a previous report having been contributed by Mr. D. LeRoy Topping; Dr. O. E. Jennings has contributed 37 additional sheets from his Ontario collections; Mr. C. A. Weatherby has donated 15 sheets; J. B. Flett, 18; J. C. Nelson, 1; L. S. Hopkins, 10; and Geo. L. Moxley, 24—a total of 380 sheets. The contributions just named have all been mounted and incorporated into the herbarium which now numbers 3381 mounted sheets with probably 200 additional sheets of unidentified specimens which are as yet unmounted.

Mr. Topping's collection was especially noteworthy in that it contained cotypes of 11 species as follows: *Nephrolepis marginalis* Copel., *Mesochlaena Toppingii* Copel., *Dryopteris Kinabauensis* Copel., *Dryopteris lithophylla* Copel., *Dryopteris Toppingii* Copel., *Cyathea megalosora* Copel., *Cyathea rigida* Copel., *Cyathea Toppingii* Copel., *Polypodium multisorum* Copel., *Polypodium albidopaleatum* Copel., and *Polypodium brachypodium* Copel.

Preparation of the Ms. for a new catalogue of the herbarium is progressing slowly as attention can be

given it only when time permits. However it is hoped to have the Ms. ready for the printer before a great while.

L. S. HOPKINS, *Curator*

Report of the Editors for 1919

The JOURNAL has been fortunate during the past year in the matter of illustrations. Mrs. William F. Brooks and Prof. Hopkins have each given one plate and Mr. E. H. Clarkson two. Prof. Hopkins has also made photographs especially for two others. Another member who wishes to remain anonymous has set the commendable example of adding to his dues each year a dollar to be used for pictures. The total of his contributions has now more than paid for a full-page plate.

Probably as an after-effect of the war, copy has come in slowly and scantily and all four numbers have been late in consequence. We can now report an improvement in that respect; we have advance copy enough for more than two numbers (including the present one) on hand. It includes two new state fern floras (of Alabama and Nebraska) and an exceptionally interesting article on a new line of work—the investigation, by easily made chemical tests, of the soil preferences of our ferns.

During the coming year we shall have to decide how best to deal with the large increase in cost of publication. This matter, affecting the whole Society, will later be laid before the members in detail. Meanwhile, we may say that requests for sample copies were never so numerous as during the last few weeks. If we can take advantage of this revival of interest to secure a substantial increase in the Society's membership, our financial problem will be solved in the best possible

way. A little personal work by each member would go far toward doing it.

R. C. BENEDICT,
E. J. WINSLOW,
C. A. WEATHERBY,
Editors

Our readers will notice that there is no illustration in this number. In order to keep current expenses within the estimated income for the year, the Council, in making up the budget for 1920, have thought best to omit the usual appropriation for illustrations in the JOURNAL. This does not mean, however, that there will be no more. Some small additional funds will be available for illustrations, and we hope for occasional gifts. Contributors who have suitable pictures are asked to send them in as heretofore.

New members:

Bean, Ralph C., 48 Emerson St., Wakefield, Mass.
Briggs, T. Lynton, 188 Central Ave., Flushing, N. Y.
Logue, Dr. Everett G., 1601 Almond St., Williamsport, Pa.
Young, John P., 1730 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D. C.

Changes of address:

Higgins, D. F., 336 Fifth Ave., Joliet, Ill.
Steil, W. N., 1806 Chadbourne Ave., Madison, Wis.

WANTED—Herbarium specimens of *Dryopteris oreopteris* (Ehrh.) Max., *Polystichum Lemmoni* Underw., *Polystichum scopulinum* (Eat.) Max., *Phegopteris alpestris* (Hoppe) Mett., and *Cystopteris montana* (Lam.) Bernh. Can give specimens from the S. E. United States and Cuba in exchange, or will pay cash for them—E. W. GRAVES, *Bentonsport, Ia.*